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PLAYERS AND MANAGERS.

Theatrical Plans Taking Form for the Coming Autumn Season.

"The Stepping-Stone" to Have a Professional Matinee.

Sidney Bowkett, the young English actor, who played here last season with Mrs. Potter, and who, when that lady failed to materialize for the present season, took a position in a less conspicuous company, now sports a card with the legend: "American representative" of Mrs. Potter and Kyrie Bellew. Mr. Bowkett is awaiting news of their opening in Melbourne, Australia, which takes place this month. Mrs. Potter and Bellew are to be in England again in October, when Mr. Bowkett is to meet them. They are then to make a tour of the English provinces, and open in London in a "big production" next Christmas. They will not be seen in this country until the season of 1891-2, when it is pretty definitely settled that they will play here again. Mrs. Potter will produce a series of Shakespearean plays, a number of which she has already produced during her stay in Australia. Mr. Bowkett, before he goes to England, will present a play of his own during the summer in Rochester.

William Gill and Robert Frazer have entered into a five years' partnership to write plays. Their first piece of collaboration is to be directed towards Evans and Hoyer. Mr. Frazer is now writing a play for a "leading society star."

D'Oyly Carte, who left for England yesterday, is reported to have had a conference with Henry E. Abbey on the subject of Sarah Bernhardt. Mr. Carte is understood to be venturing for Sarah as the opening attraction of his new theatre in London. Sarah is Abbey's. Hence the conference.

Miss Lotta and Miss Palmer, the rival sopranos, are going to take particular care next season that they don't clash. Their "rivalry" will be booked with this idea in view. Lotta and Miss Palmer clashed once before, in London, and it is not thought advisable to repeat the experiment.

Miss Carrie Turner, who will be remembered as Dianthe "Paul Kanvar," is now touring the English provinces with Miss Grace Hawthorne.

It is quite likely that two English officers will fence with the Hungarian daimons at the Eden Musee. They have expressed their desire to do so, and the Musee is never grudging of anything.

Harry Lee, whose "Suspect" company came in the other day, is going out again, this time to produce several well-known and on-land plays, or, in other words, to head "a travelling stock company."

There is to be a professional matinee of "The Stepping-Stone" for the Standard Theatre tomorrow. Mr. Rosenfeld, by the bye, holds the Standard Theatre in a rather peculiar manner. He has the privilege of extending his lease every two weeks by giving due notice. So he is a chronic state of fortnightly notification.

"The Senator" was measured yesterday by artist Gossamer for a new play, "Interior" to be used next season. The play will return to the Star Theatre.

Do Wolf Hopper is said to have become possessor of a comic opera called "The Wolf," which would have been produced by Francis Wilson had not the success of "The Oothah" rendered another effort unnecessary.

Plays and Players in Brooklyn.

Ten-year-old Carrie Webber is proving entirely acceptable as Topsy in Uncle Tom's Cabin, which has been produced by the singing of T. J. Farron, a pleasing feature of "The Shanty Queen," now at the Grand Opera-House.

In her original role of Susan McCree in "Held by the Enemy" Minnie Devereux is winning many new friends at Col. Sinn's.

The Standard Opera Company is giving an excellent production of "Fra Diavolo" at the Criterion Theatre.

The mob came in the fifth act of "Paul Kanvar" at the Lee Avenue Academy is an intense fit of realism.

Not Remarkable.

Squealer—Yes, my love! I went to jump off the train, and fell, and scraped along on my face for five feet. Wasn't hurt a bit. Remarkable, eh?

Freer—Oh, I don't know. You're used to travel on your cheek, you know.

It Made No Difference.

Foot—Have I brought you a poem, sir. It is rather long, but I suppose that will make no difference.

Editor—Oh, no. Just as easy to reject long ones as short ones.

A Lesson in Economics.

Gratton—There goes Guffum. I lent that measly duck \$10 six months ago, and he has never paid it back yet.

Wiggins—Serve you right. It is always hard to get back money from the fraud you lent.

THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN LION.

Terror of All Other Wild Beasts of the Sierras.

Story of a Fight to the Death with a Cinnamon Bear.

Last season I was out with a couple of friends on the Pacific coast enjoying a vacation, said a sportsman to a Kansas City Globe reporter. One day we found ourselves in the little town of San Raphael, in Lower California. At the hotel where we stopped we found that the villagers had been suffering a great deal by the depredations of the panther. Game, such as deer and smaller animals, their usual prey, had been very scarce, and to make up for it the pigs and cows of the residents had to suffer.

This was just what we were looking for, and the next day found us out in the Sierras on a hunt for the depredators. During the day I got separated from the other boys and wandered around for about five hours without finding a trace of anything. I was about to give the chase up and return for supper, and had selected a sort of natural path down the mountain, when I heard a muffled growl and the breaking of a heavy body through the brush some distance in front of me. I recognized the growl to be that of the cinnamon bear, and knew by the way he uttered it that he was in trouble and was making for me.

He was coming right towards me, and I had just time to conceal myself behind a tree to one side of the pathway when he burst into sight. His eyes were staring and his tongue was hanging out, and the froth flew from side to side as he bounded over the ground. I no sooner saw him than I heard the most horrible scream imaginable. It was not such a one as a person would utter when about to suffer some sudden and terrible calamity, but was more a cry of rage and madness.

The bear no sooner heard it than he seemed to lose all hope. He bounded past me some little distance and then turned on his haunches and prepared himself as if waiting an attack. He had no sooner got himself in position than something darted past me with the quickness of a flash of chain lightning. I saw in view Lotta and Miss Palmer, who had been waiting for the bear to come, and I could hardly turn my head when the cougar, for such it proved to be, had struck the bear and all I could see was a confusion of flying fur and a bewildering maze of rapidly flying and powerful paws.

The lion had buried its teeth in the bear's throat, and before he could move a paw in self defense had literally torn him into shreds with its powerful, sharp claws.

The whole thing had happened so quickly that I had scarce time to catch my breath when the fight was over, the bear dead and the lion standing over him.

The bear's ribs were torn asunder and one of the sharp claws had cut his heart in two. His intestines were threads and the great and powerful lion was covered with hair, hide and blood. I think the American lion is the quickest thing on earth.

CURE FOR A HOODOO.

Prescription Given for "Conjuring" by a Kansas City Doctor.

"You would be surprised if you knew how many of the negroes still believe in the power of the voodoo," said a police surgeon to a Kansas City Times reporter.

"They nearly all have the faith firmly fixed in their minds, though they are more careful about acknowledging it than they used to be."

About two years ago I received a call from an old black man who said he had been "conjured" by some old woman in Wyandotte, and that he was suffering from the pain in both arms and shoulders ever since. He had been digging his yard all over in search of the coffin of the woman who was supposed to have buried there in order to hoodoo him, and as the search had been useless he had become discouraged, and come to me as a last resort.

I laid up the case at once and gave him a prescription containing such odoriferous articles as iodine, saltpetre, asafoetida, and a number of others, and told him to place them upon a red-hot shovel and fumigate the place.

"The Latin name I used greatly impressed the old man, and when he got a whiff of the burning stuff he was sure there must be something miraculous about the prescription."

He came to me the next morning and declared that he was thoroughly cured, and to the day of his death he ascribed that cure to the march he made about his house at midnight that night, carrying with him a shovel with its load of loud smells.

No Nonsense About Him.

They were talking of death, when one man asked: "What were his last words?"

"He didn't say anything," was the reply.

"That's just like him," said the first man, with an approving nod; "there was no gas about him. He was all business."

Willingly to Oblige.

McFerguson on his knees—Oh, Maria, be considerate and put me out of my misery at once!

DROPS FROM HUMOR'S FONT.

Picked Up Witticisms from all Parts of the Country.

Just the Thing for a Suburban Resident.



Mr. Hackensack (in Switzerland)—How much do you want for that carrying-chair of yours, Obenswetter? I'd like to buy it of you when we get back to the hotel.

"The Guide"—What will monsieur give? I recognized the guide for nothing. I live in Jersey when I'm at home, and it would come in very handy in taking bundles home from the city.

Footloose.

"How did you get your hand?"

"I slapped a book agent in the face."

Cause and Effect.

Sam—Say, Pete, were you 't git dat broil'd shirt you wot 't deale walk 't night?

Pete—Gullible, eh? Don't know my mudder's er lawn-dresser?

He Didn't See Her.

Singleton (who has been away for two years)—I haven't seen you with Miss Blank since my return. Do you see much of her boy?

Benedict (sorrowfully)—No; I don't see her very often.

Singleton—I thought you and she were engaged. Did the break it off?

Benedict—No; we were married.

Two Mottos.

Grocer—I have always believed in fair dealing. My motto in life has been "Live and let live." Can you find one that will beat that?

Soap Manufacturer—Yes, I've got one that has all over that. My motto in life has been "None other genuine."

Refined Beef.

From the New York Weekly.

Fair Customer—Is this Western beef?

Eastern Butcher (proudly)—No, madam: we don't deal in ill-managed steers from the West. This beef, madam, is from a highly cultivated and very refined cow, formerly of Boston.

Another Napoleon.

Chicago Judge—What! are you here again, Jones?

Jones—Yes, Your Honor: this is my fourteenth suit for divorce.

Chicago Judge—Sighing the papers—There's no use in resisting the "Napoleon of divorce."

Very Wrong.

"The Sugar Trust seems to die hard."

Trust.

A Parental Duty.

Mr. Threads (at the head of the stairs)—Sylvia, isn't it most time to retire?

"RESERVE" IS NOT OPTION.

History of the Word as Used in the League Contract.

Charley Mitchell's Challenge to Frank Slavin Creates a Sensation.

In view of the many lawsuits now in progress, hinging upon the word "reserve," the history of the word is certainly interesting. Messrs. Hanlon, Irwin and Bruntz, Committee of the Brotherhood of Ball-Players to adjust the contract between the National League and the players, a few years ago met their lawyer, J. F. C. Blackhurst, at the Hotel Lafayette, Philadelphia, and, according to affidavits to be used in the Ewing suit, the following facts are developed.

Lawyer Blackhurst had framed a contract which gave the National League an absolute option on its players for the year ending on the first of July. It was signed: Irwin noticed this and said to the Committee:

"Why, if we adopt this form of contract, we will give the League owners more power over us than they have now; they will have an absolute option on our services for a year after the contract is signed. We do not want to give them more power than they have now. Our idea is to better ourselves. We shall not do it if this contract is adopted as it stands now."

Irwin then agreed with Mr. Blackhurst that the contract, as it then stood, did convey an absolute option, and the Committee tried for some time to find a phrase or sentence that would convey exactly what they meant. Finally Irwin hit upon the word "reserve," and Counselor Blackhurst assured him that the point the players desired to cover was fully provided for by the use of this word.

This, in substance, forms the affidavit of the three players above mentioned, which will be used in the impending suits against the players by the National League owners. Mr. Blackhurst some time ago wrote an opinion, which was printed in full in the Sporting News, wherein he said that he believed the word "reserve" did convey an option to the Club.

Since writing this opinion Mr. Blackhurst has had the conversation with the Players' Committee in the Hotel Lafayette recalled to his memory, and he does not now believe that the word "reserve" meant an option.

Several simple things have made the Club seem mysterious. First, it never feasts or compliments any man except on one day of the year, when it picks out from all the world one great man to elect as an honorary member. Henry M. Stanley won that prize this year, James Russell won it last year. The monthly dinners every guest is the guest of the member who brings him to the Club; no man was ever the guest of the Club, but he was the guest of a member.

The Spring meeting of the Southeastern Circuit commences at Washington on April 22. The other places where the Association will hold trotting events are the gentlemen's Drivers' Park, Baltimore, and Pimlico, Baltimore. The Philadelphia Driving Park and the Belmont Driving Club, also in Philadelphia.

The Xavier Club, of East Sixteenth street, has organized an outing and athletic club, and enrolled fifty members. The club will hold its first meeting for the ensuing year: Captain, P. Cannon; President, James Smith; Vice-President, J. Plunkett; Secretary, James H. O'Brien; Treasurer, Frank Slavin. The thriving young Club has already taken its place among the popular athletic organizations of this city.

The colored boxing championships of America will be held in Brooklyn, at Robertson's Gymnasium, corner Orange and Fulton streets, March 30 and 31. The bouts will be between the following amateurs: 115 pounds, 135 pounds and 155 pounds. Entries close March 17, with W. H. Robertson, 91 Orange street, Brooklyn.

A big sensation has been created in sporting circles of England by Charley Mitchell, the Australian champion, who has posted a forfeit with the Sporting Life to meet Slavin with gloves.

Pete McGuff, who has lately been winning pugilistic fame, is back from California, the scene of his recent triumphs, and wants to make a ten-round glove match with the famous Braccon, the popular middle-weight of this city.

This year there promises to be strong rivalry between the New York and Manhattan Athletic clubs in the point of athletic supremacy. The Manhattan have been greatly strengthened since last season, and will make it interesting for all athletic clubs.

Success of an American Artist.

Mr. Sydney Mortimer Laurence, the promising young American artist, has just finished a large marine for exhibition at the Royal Academy. It is a fine example of Mr. Laurence's skill as a painter. He took a home at St. Ives, Cornwall, soon after his marriage to the charming Miss Dapport last year, and has had abundant opportunity to study his favorite subject.

The painting represents a wreck half buried in the sand, and lying in shadow. Beyond the wreck the sea is gray, and is bathed in a uniform light. It is a strong picture and reflects greatly on Mr. Laurence's skill as a painter.

At the home of the Laurences, is a lovely ivy-covered house, where hospitality is lavished by the young artist and his brilliant wife. They are doing so well in England that it will be some time before they return to America.

Wouldn't he come to the trouble. Well, let him have them, and I hope I shall never hear of the wreck again.

Mrs. Smith ventured to make a few inquiries, and Sir George instantly, to use a vulgar expression, "died on." He indicated to her that he was saying more than he intended.

"My dear madam," he said, "my daughter has married a man who was unable to support her—he has deserted her—I have taken her home. Your rent is paid. That is all you want to know. You don't go about the matter if you can help it. Good afternoon."

'TIS A CAVE OF SECRETS.

A Pen and Ink Sketch of One of the League Clubs.

New York's Clubs.

There is no actual mystery about the famous Fellowship Club, of New York, though so many tens of thousands of New Yorkers think there is, says Julian Ralph in the current number of *Chatter*. The club is the most exclusive social organization in America, if not in the world. Secret societies are almost as public as Broadway when compared to it, and men high in the Ewing suit, the following facts are developed.

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